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STATE

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CALGARY please pass to WINNIPEG

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: KPAO OEXC SCUL CA IV
SUBJECT: FY 2006 International Visitor Leadership Program
for CANADA

11. SUMMARY: This cable transmits the Mission's FY 2006 International Visitor Leadership Program slate. END SUMMARY.

12. The Mission Canada International Visitor Committee, composed of principal officers of Canada's seven constituent posts and Embassy Minister-Counselors for political, economic and public affairs, chaired by the Charg, met via digital videoconference on May 2nd to select Canada's slate of nominees for the FY 2006 program. The twenty-eight

principal candidates and twelve alternates represent emerging leaders from all of Canada's consular districts, from seven provinces and territories, from government, media, law enforcement, think tanks, higher education institutions, corporations, and non-profit organizations. Eleven of the principal twenty-eight candidates are visible minorities, twelve are women. Their proposed programs will support six priority Mission Performance Plan priorities.

13. Nominating bio-data will be submitted via separate cables in EVDB format. The post looks forward to collaborating with ECA/PE/V colleagues to offer them the kind of up-close, stimulating and balanced experience in the United States that has given past grantees a multi-dimensional, richer view of the United States.

14. The nominees below have full country team approval.

15. Canada's FY 2006 International Visitor nominees follow, grouped by relevant Mission Performance Plan Themes. Numbers at left indicate ranking. Those ranked numbers 1 to 28 are principal candidates, and 29 to 40 are alternates.

MPP THEME: PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TO TERRORISM

1 - Qi WANG, Analyst, Borders Task Force, Privy Council, Government of Canada. Requested program: EU RP U.S. FOREIGN POLICY CHALLENGES, OCT 10-28, 2005

5 - Steve RAI, Sergeant, Vancouver Policy Department. Requested program: MRP INTERNATIONAL CRIME ISSUES, JUNE 29-JULY 20, 2006

3 - Wade KELLER, Senior Producer, ATV news, Halifax, Nova Scotia. ITT on Public Policy Issues and the U.S. Broadcast Media, with Kacey Wilson. (tbc)

22 - Kacey WILSON, Host/Producer "Today So Far", CJOB 68 Radio, Winnipeg. ITT on Public Policy Issues and the U.S. Broadcast Media, with Wade Keller. (tbc)

26 - Joe COUTO, Director, Government Relations, Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police. Requested program: EU RP Combatting Trafficking In Persons, June 4-23, 2006 Or EU RP Combatting International Crime, September 25-October 13, 2006

27 - Arnold CHAN, Executive Assistant to the Premier of Ontario. ITT on Current Economic, Political, Security, and Social Issues

Alternate:

30 - Baraladei IGALI, President, Igali Foundation Inc., Vancouver. MRP International Security Issues, AUG 2-24, 2006

MPP THEME: INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK PROTECTION

11 - David MORLEY, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Minister of State for Infrastructure and Communities, Ottawa. ITT on Infrastructure Development and Protection, with Isabelle Hudon.

20 - Stephen LASKOWSKI, Assistant Vice President, Ontario Trucking Association. ITT on Ground Transportation Safety and Planning

25 - Robert KROEKER, Director of Commercial Vehicle Safety, British Columbia Ministry of Solicitor General. ITT on Ground Transportation Safety and Planning

MPP THEME: CLOSE TIES WITH ALLIES AND FRIENDS

2 - Yolande JAMES, Member of Quebec Legislative Assembly - ITT on Current Economic, Political, Security, and Social Issues

8 - Navdeep BAINS, Member of Canadian Parliament, Liberal Party. ITT on U.S. Policymaking Process, with MP Nathan Cullen.

10 - Nathan CULLEN, Member of Canadian Parliament, New Democrat Party. ITT on U.S. Policymaking Process, with Navdeep BAINS.

12 - Paul BLACK, Research Officer, Office of the Leader of the Opposition, Government of Nova Scotia. ITT on Current Economic, Political, Security, and Social Issues

15 - Josee VERNER, Chair, Quebec Caucus of the Conservative Party of Canada. ITT on Current Economic, Political, Security, and Social Issues

24 - Tara BINGHAM, Special Assistant to Member of Canadian Parliament Belinda Stronach. ITT on Current Economic, Political, Security, and Social Issues

Alternate:

33 - David SALVATORE, Legislative Assistant to Member of Canadian Parliament Solberg. ITT on Current Economic, Political, Security, and Social Issues

MPP THEME: SECURE AND STABLE MARKETS

9 - Derek BROWN, Executive Director, Resource Development and Geoscience Branch, British Columbia Ministry of Energy and Mines, Oil and Gas. Individual Program on U.S. Energy Policy

13 - Ryan CRAIG, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor of Winnipeg. ITT on Current Economic, Political, Security, and Social Issues

14 - Adrienne BATRA, Manitoba Director, Canadian Taxpayers Federation. EU RP on Trade and Economic Development (pending acceptance).

17 - Isabelle HUDON, President and CEO, Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal. ITT on Infrastructure Development and Protection, with David Morley.

18 - Marie-France CHARBONNEAU, Political Attaché, Bloc Québécois Cabinet, Ottawa. ITT on Current Economic, Political, Security, and Social Issues

19 - Peter GREGG, Vice President, Corporate Communications, Hydro One, Toronto. Individual program on U.S. Energy Policy and Security.

23 - Barry McNamar, Assistant Director for Development, The Fraser Institute, Calgary. EU RP Trade And Economic Issues - MAY 8-26, 2006

Alternate:

31 - Alexander LOFTHOUSE, Policy Advisor, Trade and International Policy, Ontario Ministry of Economic Development and Trade. Individual Program on U.S. Trade and Security Policies

MPP THEME: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

4 - David Neufeld, MANAGER, Water Policy, Ontario Ministry of the Environment. Individual Program on U.S. Environmental Protection and Water Management

28 - Letia COUSINS, Director, Aboriginal and Circumpolar

Affairs, Government of Nunavut. Individual program, theme to be confirmed.

Alternate:

34 - Allan SCHOLZ, President, A.N. Scholz and Associates, Calgary. Individual program on U.S. Water Policy and Management.

MPP THEME: INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION

6 - Ahmed MAHIDJIBA, President, Algerian Cultural Center, Montreal. Individual program on Role of Religious Communities in U.S. Society

7 - Peesee PITSIULAK, Campus Director, Nunatta Campus, Nunavut Arctic College. Individual program on Educational Policy for Minority Populations

16 - Patrick GILLES, Cultural Community Organizer, Quebec Liberal Party - ITT on Multiculturalism in the U.S.

21 - Tracey THOMAS, Coordinator of Student Recruitment, Nova Scotia Community College - ITT on Multiculturalism in the U.S.

Alternates:

29 - Robert SMALL, Non-profit Manager and Program Development, Portland Hotel Society, Community Services Society, Vancouver. MRP on Substance Abuse, Education, Treatment And Prevention, Nov 10-Dec 1, 2005

32 - Carmen MOORE, Chief of Protocol, Government of the Northwest Territories. Individual program, theme tbd.

35 - Zarina Mulla, Social Planner, City of Vancouver Drug Policy Program. Individual or group program on Drug Abuse Prevention, Education and Treatment.

End of nominee list.

16. Proposed Canada group programs

A) Current Economic, Political, Security and Social Issues

This proposed project, for provincial and municipal politicians and political aides, representing several parties, would develop grantees' understanding of the workings of the U.S. political and economic policy-making system; federal/state/local relations; legislative/executive/judicial checks and balances; U.S. policies and public views on security and defense; international trade policies, especially those that affect Canada; health care and social security debates; energy policy; and environmental protection and conservation. The project would be structured so that grantees participate in 10 days of common programming, then split into smaller groups to pursue specific interests in the remaining 5 program days.

Proposed group members:

--Yolanda James, Member of Quebec Legislative Assembly (Liberal);
--Paul Black Research Officer, Office of the Leader of the Opposition, Government of Nova Scotia (New Democratic Party);
--Josee Verner, Chair, Quebec Caucus of the Conservative Party of Canada;
--Marie-France Charbonneau, Political Attach, Bloc Quebecois Cabinet, Ottawa;
--Tara Bingham, Special Assistant to Member of Canadian Parliament Belinda Stronach (recent Liberal);
--Arnold Chan, Executive Assistant to the Premier of Ontario (Liberal);
--Craig Ryan, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor of Winnipeg

B) Ground Transportation Safety and Planning

This project would better acquaint two players involved in supporting Canada-U.S. trade via truck to overall U.S. security policies, U.S. border security concerns, regulation and implementation, including both northern and southern borders, ground transportation safety measures,

infrastructure planning and funding, and broader border security measures, such as container inspection, bioterrorism countermeasures, and marine security

cooperation.

Nominees:

--Stephen Laskowski, Assistant Vice President, Ontario Trucking Association;
--Robert Kroeker, Director of Commercial Vehicle Safety, British Columbia Ministry of Solicitor General

C) Infrastructure Development and Protection

This project would focus on the political, financial, environmental, and social aspects of infrastructure development in urban areas and at key U.S. border crossings. One nominee is a public sector manager, the other a business association leader. The program would emphasize the positive interaction between the public and private sectors in the United States to identify priorities, stimulate investment, and implement infrastructure projects that support economic growth, safety and well-being of citizens.

Nominees:

--David Morley, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Minister of State for Infrastructure and Communities, Ottawa;
--Isabelle Hudon, President and CEO, Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal

D) U.S. Policymaking Process (security, economic, environmental issues)

This project would acquaint two first-term Members of the Canadian Parliament to the policy-making system in the United States, through discussions with federal, state and local government leaders and officials, experts, lobbyists, media, labor organizations, and interest groups on security, economic and environmental issues that matter in the U.S.-Canada relationship. Specific topics will be determined in consultation with invitees, once approved.

Nominees:

--Navdeep BAINS, Member of Canadian Parliament (Liberal)
--Nathan CULLEN, Member of Canadian Parliament (New Democratic Party)

E) Multiculturalism in the U.S.

This project would acquaint two leaders of multicultural communities with U.S. ideals and practice in celebrating the diversity of our society. Themes might include immigration policy and integration of new immigrants; business development among minorities and government policies in support of women- and minority-owned businesses; education and training opportunities for minorities; integration and language issues in schools; promotion of diversity in the workplace; the Haitian-American community and its role in aiding Haiti; African-American community leadership and culture; US promotion of religious tolerance and freedom at home and abroad; cultural institutions celebrating indigenous people, immigrants, and minorities.

Nominees:

--Patrick Gilles, Cultural Community Organizer, Quebec Liberal Party;
--Tracey Thomas, Coordinator of Student Recruitment, Nova Scotia Community College

F) U.S. Public Policy Issues and the Broadcast Media

This program would acquaint two emerging broadcast journalists with major public policy debates in the U.S. and how they are covered in the broadcast media. Through meetings with federal executive, legislative and judicial branches, state and local governments, NGOs, industry and professional associations, and naturally, their counterparts in U.S. media organizations, they would gain insights into how the differing views of Americans merge in the policy-making process. Specific issues on which they might focus include U.S. Homeland Security (e.g. balancing security measures with privacy and civil liberties concerns); U.S. Trade Policy (e.g. commitment to free trade, positions on agricultural trade distortions in world markets, U.S. trade remedies as applied to Canada-U.S. softwood, wheat and hog trade); Energy and Environmental Policy (respective contributions of energy companies, auto companies, alternative energy researchers and producers, nuclear power proponents, conservationists, public utilities, and NGOs), Prescription Drug Trade, or the Social Security Debate.

Nominees:

--Wade Keller, Senior Producer, ATV news, Halifax, Nova Scotia

--Kacey Wilson, Host/Producer "Today So Far", CJOB 68 Radio,
Winnipeg

17. EVDB nominating cables will follow. Post looks forward to Washington approval of nominees and to working with ECA/PE/V/R/W and group project officers in designing and implementing the FY 2006 Canada International Visitor Leadership Program, the beneficiary in past years of the expert planning and dedication of Washington program officers and program agency colleagues.

DICKSON, CHARGE